

## INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

## THE ROYAL MEDAL.

At the meeting on Monday last, Mr. C. Fowler, V.P., in the chair, a proposal by the council to present the Royal Gold Medal of the Institute to Mr. T. L. Donaldson, Professor of Architecture at University College, "on account of his merits generally as an architect, both in the design of buildings and in the long and honourable practice of his profession—his liberal and arduous study of architecture both abroad and at home—his valuable contributions to the literature of the art—his devotion to the duties of his professorship, and for his effectual seal as one of the chief founders of the Royal Institute of British Architects, so honourable and advantageous to the profession, and to the public good,"—was passed unanimously by the meeting.

We cordially concur in the resolution, and trust that Mr. Donaldson, who has but just now recovered from a severe illness, may live long to enjoy his honours.

Mr. J. Fergusson, Associate, then gave an interesting account of the architecture of Nineveh, as elucidated by recent discoveries; a subject which he had selected in immediate reference to the subscription-list which had been opened at the Institute in furtherance of Mr. Layard's researches; and laid before the meeting his ideas of the original appearance of the buildings. Mr. Fergusson confined his remarks principally to the Palace of Khorsabad, explored by M. Botta, the French consul; and exhibited a view and section of that palace restored, to which we last week drew attention. In the discussion which ensued,

The Chairman remarked the striking similarity between the winged bulls of Persepolis and those of Nineveh.

Mr. Fergusson said, the general resemblance in the sculptures of the two places fully warranted the adoption of Persepolitan forms in restoring the architecture of Nineveh. There was abundance of wood in Assyria adapted for building purposes, and there could not be a doubt that that material was largely employed. The architecture of Persepolis, of Lycia, and of the early cave-temples of India, presented decided marks of being based upon a wooden type. The pillars and the flat roofs had fallen, and filled up the apartments; and to this occurrence was owing the preservation of the extraordinary sculptures now discovered.

Mr. Papworth suggested that the fall of the flat roofs, if constructed of earth, as supposed by Mr. Fergusson, would have prevented the total destruction of the columns by fire, and that, therefore, remains of them might have been expected.

Mr. Fergusson said that was no doubt the case. Several large pieces of timber had been found by Mr. Layard; but it was impossible that that material (especially if cedar) could have lasted, in a country exposed to heavy annual rains; being only protected by a covering of earth.

In reply to a question by Mr. Mocatta, Mr. Fergusson referred, more fully than in his lecture, to the inscriptions on the walls of the palace of Khorsabad. Though the majority of these referred to war and battles, Colonel Rawlinson was convinced that the inscriptions in the state apartments were descriptions, frequently repeated, of the building itself, on the walls of which they were found. This very interesting point would doubtless be further elucidated as prolonged study gave a clearer knowledge of the import of the inscriptions.

Professor Cockerell entered at some length into the suggested restorations of Mr. Fergusson, the correctness of which he considered highly probable. He further adverted to the prevalence of what were usually thought Greek forms, the Ionic capital, the honeysuckle ornament, &c., in the sculptures and ivories of Assyria, which was a matter of much interest.

Mr. Bellamy inquired what proof there was that the radial arch was known and used in Nineveh.

Mr. Fergusson referred to several vaulted chambers discovered by Mr. Layard, which were as genuine arches as any of modern times. The sculptures of Nineveh comprised

numerous representations of round-headed openings to doors. Mr. Layard's attention was fully directed to this point, and his discoveries would doubtless prove that the principle of the arch was well known to the Assyrians. In answer to other remarks, he said the floors of the different chambers had not yet been fully explored; but if they were (as they would be by Mr. Layard) he much doubted whether any trace of the original position of the supposed wooden columns would be found, inasmuch as, he thought, above the earthen floor still existing, there must have been some more ornamental flooring which has perished.

Mr. Penrose explained an ingenious instrument for drawing the Ionic volute, partly his own invention; and Mr. Rogers exhibited some beautifully carved book-covers.

The meeting adjourned till the 24th inst.

## PRINCESS'S THEATRE, OXFORD-STREET.

MR. DION BOURCAULT'S new five-act comedy, "Love in a Maze," which has been produced at this house with great and deserved success, has only three scenes, but these are quite perfect of their kind, and serve to place Mr. W. Gordon, and Mr. F. Lloyds (by whom they were painted), high in the ranks of stage artists.

The first scene represents the exterior of an Elizabethan mansion, "Buckethorne Chase, in the county of Norfolk," and both as to the details, truthfulness, and general effect, is excellent. The second, shows an apartment in the mansion, fitted up very completely, with its glasses, cabinets, and chandeliers. It has a carved ceiling, with pendants, and the stage-covering is made to represent a Turkey carpet on an oak floor. The third scene, which shows a garden maze (such as at Hampton Court), is perhaps, more noticeable for ingenuity in the setting than for the painting.

We were so placed, thanks to a full house, that all we saw was round a corner, but will still bear witness to the excellence of the work.

The piece is full of wit from beginning to end; and is beautifully acted by Mr. and Mrs. Kean, Mr. and Mrs. Keeley, Wigan, Harley, Addison, and Meadows.

## NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

At the entrance to Mayfield, from Tunbridge Wells, a new national school for girls has been built close to the existing school for boys. It was opened on 27th ult. The building, which will accommodate 110 children, is of red and grey brick. The plans and decorative parts of the building were given gratuitously by the architect, Mr. Charles Turner.—Eastbourne parish church is about to be recreated.—The intended new church to be built near the station at Tunbridge, will be begun in the course of the spring; tenders for the contract are to be delivered to the architect by 24th inst.—At Hastings, preparations have commenced on the site of the new church. The foundation stone will probably be laid in course of a month. The funds fall short of the required amount. The building is to be ready by Jan. 1, 1852.—The Commissioners of the Hastings Improvement Act are thinking of building a large room for a Corn Exchange over the present market.—Since the stoppage of the new county gaol works at Lewes, in October last, through the failure of the late contractor, Mr. Wm. Trego, arrangements have been completed for contract with Messrs. Locke and Nesham, conjointly with the sureties in the original contract. Shortly after the stoppage, by order of the architect, Mr. D. R. Hill, of Birmingham, the walls of the several wings were washed over to preserve them. As soon, however, as the weather can be depended upon, the works will be resumed. A number of men are now engaged in preparing masonry flints for face work, &c. The building, as heretofore, will be under the superintendence of Mr. Edw. Stevens, clerk of works for the county, and Mr. John Hawking as manager. The arrangements for ventilation are to be on the same principle as at the

model prison, Pentonville,—air-cells running along the basement of each wing. Every prisoner will have his separate cell, with requisite accommodation for ablutary and other purposes. In cases of sudden indisposition, the inmate may receive immediate assistance by ringing a bell in the corridor. The cooking and distributing of the food of the prisoners will be also specially facilitated by arrangements for the purpose.—A tablet to the memory of the late Canon Bowles has recently been erected in the aisle of the south-east transept of Salisbury Cathedral. It is in the florid Gothic style, and is from the atelier of Mr. Osmond, sculptor.—Mr. Bigglestone, of Hereford, sculptor, has completed a monumental cross, intended to be erected in Malpas churchyard. It is about 14 feet high. The style is of the Decorated period, circa 1350. A pierced cross-flory, with the ball-flower ornament surrounding the centre opening, is elevated on a capital ornamented with ivy leaves, which rests on an octangular shaft, rising from a truncated cone, on one face of which is the inscription in Lombardic character. The base of the cone is surrounded with a circle of ball-flowers; and the angles of the cone terminate upon the shaft in carved finials.—From an abstract of receipts and disbursements on Liverpool water account for 1850, it appears that the ordinary income of last year amounted to 59,733l. 6s. 6d., and the expenditure to 54,649l. 13s. 6d., leaving a balance of 5,084l. 7s. The total income for the three years 1848-9-50, was 173,326l. 8s. 11d.; expenditure, 145,106l. 3s. 7d.; balance, 28,220l. 5s. 4d. In 1848 the amount received from water rents was 44,799l.; in 1849, 45,444l.; and in 1850, 46,345l. On the Rivington account there was expended last year the sum of 104,531l. 14s. 3d. Of this amount 27,206l. has been paid to the pipe contractors; 1,223l. on account of the water investigation of Messrs. Simpson and Newlands—1,077l. 3s. 11d. being Mr. Simpson's share; and 4,731l. 19s. 4d. on account of Mr. Robert Stephenson's inquiry. Mr. Stephenson's account being 2,055l. 19s. 7d.—A new school for the blind at Liverpool has been erected, and the chapel re-erected, at the junction of Hardman-street with Hope-street, the old sites at Hotham-street and London-road having been taken for railway purposes. The chapel was rebuilt with the old materials; the interior is still uncompleted. The facade of the school, which is of Bath stone, is in the Grecian style, and consists of a centre and two wings, the ground floor of the former occupied by shop for sale of manufactures by the pupils, committee and ward rooms, &c. This, the front part of the building, is of three stories, the upper rooms being fitted as dormitories for females. The rear of the building, commencing with the corridor, being that chiefly devoted to the institutional appliances, is three stories in height; the basement occupied by kitchens and offices, and the upper rooms principally as dormitories for the males. From the central hall the eye commands the whole range of apartments. The contractors for the rebuilding of the church and the erection of the new schools are Messrs. George and Arthur Holme, of Benson-street.—A new vicarage-house is just being completed in the parish of St. Peter, Dronwich. The chimneys and other parts are of moulded and cut bricks from Oddingley. Mr. J. Smith is the architect, and Mr. J. Shilcock the builder.—On Shrove Tuesday was laid the foundation-stone of a new school-room and preaching-house, about to be built in Hunt's-ward, Great Horton, by that portion of the Wesleyan body which has been expelled for their reforming tendencies. In the village of Great Horton, the expelled constitute the majority of the Wesleyan body.—The letting of the erection of the New Corn Exchange at Barnsley took place on Tuesday week. The successful contractors were—Mr. Robinson, stone mason; Mr. Harrison, joiner; Messrs. Hall and Jenkinson, plasterers; Mr. Brown, plumbing and glazing; Mr. M. Wood, slating; and Mr. Rogers, painting.—A new school-house is about to be erected at Newby, in the parish of St. Mary, Carlisle; Mr. James Stewart, archi-